variables in the global file may cause changes in the cells in accordance with parameters in the local files.

2.   (Amended) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein [each] at least one local file comprises an inherit file which inherits parameters from the global file.

9.   (Amended) A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon to cause a suitably equipped computer to update a set of parameters of a design cell by relating local variables of a local file for the design cell to a global file of global variables [of a global file] relating to layout of element blocks of a hierarchical semiconductor structure such that changes of a global variable in the global file may cause changes in the cells in accordance with parameters in the local files.

15.   (Amended) A computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium;

a global file of global variables stored on the medium at least some of the global variables relating to layout of element blocks of a hierarchical semiconductor structure;

a plurality of local files stored on the medium, each local file containing parameters relating a plurality of local variables to the global variables; and,

a computer program executed by the processor from the medium to automatically update a set of parameters for each of a plurality of programmable design cells, each cell having a corresponding local file, by reading, from the global file, values for the global variables to which the local variables of the local file correspond.

22.   (Amended) A computerized method comprising:

changing within a cleansheet file at least one of a plurality of design rules for defining the physical layout of a hierarchical semiconductor structure [within a cleansheet file];

updating values for a plurality of global variables of a global file based on the design rules of the cleansheet file; and,